

another great pleasure, and to be made to feel that, although so many years absent, our place was still there touched our heart deeply.

In fact, wherever we have been, even where the faces were all strange, the cordiality with which the editor of the JOURNAL was received and appropriated was one of those gratifying experiences which words cannot express. The little journey of ten weeks was just a succession of pleasant episodes, the memory of which will always remain with us.

NURSING INSTITUTES.

THE endowment of Simmons College as a technical school for women promises to open the way for a central nursing institute for Boston, where the pupils of all schools within the radius may receive the theoretical and preliminary instruction necessary before entering the wards of the hospital for the practical part of their nursing education.

The idea that a nurse shall be taught the theory of her work before entering the wards is no longer new, but to separate the theory from the practice means a complete revolution in the present methods of training-school administration.

Mention was made in the first number of this Journal (October, 1901) of a plan which Miss M. E. P. Davis was trying to work out in Boston for a central preliminary school for nurses. The financial difficulties attendant upon her scheme prevented its development, but her agitation of the subject undoubtedly prepared the way for the plan which may be worked out in connection with Simmons College.

On March 12 a public announcement was made of the aims of the college, which included domestic science in all its branches, secretarial work, library technique, horticultural and landscape gardening, and a general scientific course, "to be of special value to teachers or to those wishing to prepare themselves for medicine or *nursing*." Immediately, Miss Davis and Miss Palmer, who was at that time staying in Boston, invited eight of the leading superintendents in that locality to a luncheon at the Hotel Thorndike, where the subject was discussed of asking the trustees of Simmons College to establish the much-talked-of preliminary course upon such lines as the superintendents and hospital managers should advise.

The guests present were Misses Drown, Riddle, Dolliver, McDowell, Jamme, Hutchinson, and Stevenson, Miss Richards not being able to attend. These ladies formed themselves into a committee and selected Miss Dolliver as their representative to call upon one of the trustees to submit the plan and to ask for further conference. So ably did Miss Dolliver execute her mission that another meeting of the committee was held, an outline drawn up, and Miss Davis, Miss Riddle, and Miss Dolliver appointed a committee to confer with the dean, Miss Arnold, who received their suggestions with the greatest interest and gave them cordial assurance of her coöperation in making the plan a success.

We believe that in those cities where technical schools already exist such courses could easily be established with comparatively little additional cost. For instance, in our own city of Rochester the Mechanics' Institute has an exceptionally fine domestic science department, and it already includes in its corps of instructors a number of able physicians. In the nursing corps of the city are many able women, from among whom one could easily be selected to take charge of such a course, and it would be in line with the policy of the institute to provide such additional facilities as might be necessary to make the course a success.

Such institutions as the "Pratt" in Brooklyn and the "Drexel" in Philadelphia, we should think, could easily be made available for a special course of instruction to nurses.

The movement for this radical change in the method of training nurses comes from the superintendents of schools who have had long years of practical experience, with opportunity to judge of the defects of the present system. Hospitals are becoming more and more educational institutions, and this is right to just the extent that teaching does not interfere with the best welfare of the patient, but to carry on classes in theory, with lectures and examinations at the time when the services of the nurse are so essential to the general welfare of the hospital, complicates the administration to an alarming degree, as the demand for the more careful theoretical instruction of the nurse increases from year to year.

The more universal the agitation, the more quickly the change will be accepted.

When we have established central nursing institutes we shall have made great strides towards a uniform curriculum. With the pupils from half a dozen schools receiving their instruction in anatomy, physiology, hygiene, bacteriology, domestic science, etc., etc., from one staff of able instructors, all passing the same examinations, it will then remain for the hospitals to provide instruction in practical nursing in all its varying branches.

The whole idea of preliminary training means a great reform, and the plan is yet so new that it needs the united energies of our ablest women. How the idea has taken form at the Johns Hopkins will be given in the next number.

STATE MEETINGS.

THE annual meeting of the New York State Nurses' Association was a notably well conducted and harmonious gathering. It needs to be plainly understood that those nurses who have become members during the year are *charter* members individually. It now remains for the associations to make application for membership, according to the instruction given in the secretary's report. Hereafter the official reports and announcements of the society will be made through the pages of this JOURNAL.

We understand that the Illinois nurses are to fix the eligibility lines at their next meeting, and we also are advised that the nurses of North Carolina are moving in the direction of State organization.

When the young nurses of to-day look back a quarter of a century to this time when State organization began, what a strange, crude condition of things will seem to have existed. It is for us to sow that those who are to come after us may reap.

